



Australian Bureau of Statistics

1407.0.55.001 - ABS.Stat - Beta: Web Browser User Guide, 2014

Latest ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 30/04/2014



Introduction

Includes: Information about ABS.Stat Beta and its various features as well as descriptions of concepts, dimensions and what search functions are available.



The ABS.Stat Web Browser

Includes: The functionality of the web browser interface: Table View (including pivot table features), Merged Queries, Metadata and Full Text Search.



Customise Selection

Includes: How to define your data selection by dimensions, dimension members and lay out options.



Customise Table Option

Includes: Customising your table by using code options (e.g.: geography), setting decimals, removing empty rows and other functions.



Exporting Data

Includes: How to export data from ABS.Stat in various formats - Excel, Text File or SDMX (XML).



Viewing Metadata

Includes: Viewing metadata at different levels and where to access metadata within ABS.Stat.



Working with Queries

Includes: How to combine one or more queries.



Drawing Charts

Includes: Drawing Bar, Line and Scatter Plot Charts.



Printing Data from the Browser

Includes: Options for printing queries.



Providing Feedback

Includes: How to contact us and tell us what you think about ABS.Stat.

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Introduction

About ABS.Stat

ABS.Stat is an interactive, free online tool that presents datasets in a searchable, flexible and dynamic way. ABS.Stat presents users with two options, a web browser to view, query and download data and a web service to facilitate machine to machine communication via the use of the Statistical Data and Metadata Standard (SDMX). The web service enables other organisations to interface with ABS.Stat and customise the data in their own environments.

The ABS.Stat web interface allows you to:

- search and discover ABS statistics
- query, view and download data - choose pre-packaged data or customise data to your own requirements
- view valuable metadata alongside the data
- export data in a range of formats such as Excel and CSV as well as SDMX.

Access to ABS.Stat is open and free of charge.

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The ABS.Stat Web Browser

The online window to the ABS.Stat data warehouse is provided by the ABS.Stat Web Browser. This browser has been designed to allow both experienced and new users to rapidly locate and retrieve statistical data and related metadata.

Main features include:

- Table View – construct queries, view data, flags and metadata from a table that includes a number of pivot features for customising the data layout.
- Merged Queries – combine queries to allow cross-dataset comparisons along common dimensions.
- Metadata Access - access all metadata from dataset level down to observation or data point / series footnotes and data flags.
- Full Text Search - rapidly locate series across datasets, data dimensions and metadata.
- Dynamic graphics – visualise data dynamically in a line chart, bar chart or scatter plot chart.

Features in the future will include:

- Links to the latest versions of the most Frequently Requested ABS Data (CPI, GDP figures, etc.)
- Data Basket - save data queries for later viewing, and share them with others.
- Microdata Viewer - access transaction-level microdata as well as aggregate macrodata.

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Customise Selection

Once you have made your data selection, you can select from the icon action bar.

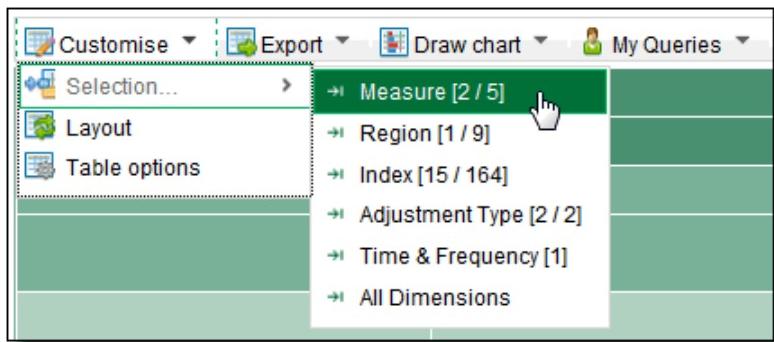


The icon action bar

Select the:

- button to customise the dimensions, dimension members and layout of the current table.
- button to save your selection as an Excel, Text file (CSV) or SDMX file.
- button to create charts based on your table.
- button to add your current table view as a query for further work.

The **Customise - Selection** information shows the dimensions of the dataset with an indication, in brackets, of the number of items, or members, selected in each dimension. If you click a dimension title, a list of the members you can choose from will be shown. You will need to select at least one item from each component of the data selection (e.g. measure, region, index and time). In each menu once you have ticked the items you want you also need to press select.



Customise selection drop down menu

Customise selection X

Other selections: [Measure \[2/5\]](#) [Region\[1/9\]](#) [Index \[15/164\]](#) [Adjustment Type \[2/2\]](#) [Time & Frequency \[1\]](#) Number of cells currently selected: 60

Find in selection Exact wording or phrase [Expand all](#) [Collapse all](#) [Select all](#) [Unselect all](#)

Region (1)

- Sydney
- Melbourne
- Brisbane
- Adelaide
- Perth
- Hobart
- Darwin
- Canberra
- Weighted average of eight capital cities

[Customise layout](#) [Customise table options](#) [View Data](#)

The customise selection window showing the region dimension

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Customise Table Option

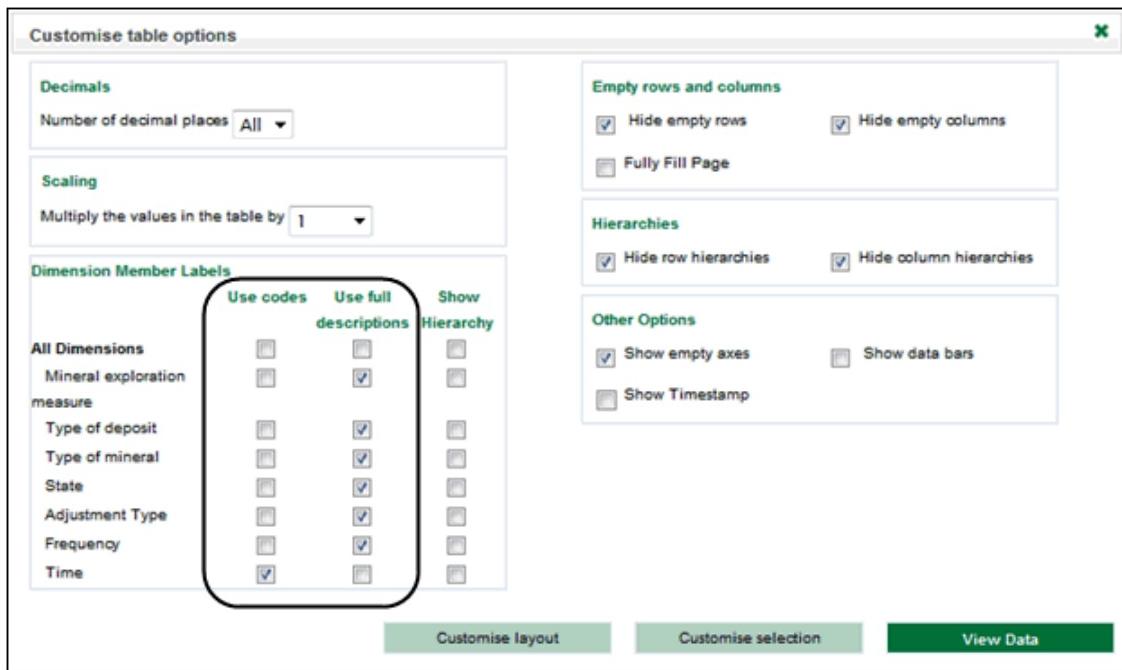
Showing Codes Instead of Names

All datasets, dimensions and dimension members in the data warehouse have short codes as well as names. The codes can be displayed instead of names, by using the option **Use Codes** instead of full descriptions. Many other options are available such as setting decimals, removing empty rows, fitting pages, charting and others.

To use codes instead of names, select the **Table Options** icon found in the **Customise** drop down. Under the **Use codes** option, select the dimensions you want displayed with codes by clicking on the boxes, and then deselect **Use full descriptions**. When finished making your selection, click **View data**.



The Customise drop down



The Customise Table window showing the Use Codes option

Mineral Exploration

Customise Export Draw chart My Queries

+ Type of mineral	Total		
+ State	Australia		
+ Frequency	Quarterly		
+ Adjustment Type	Original		
+ Mineral exploration measure	Expenditure (\$ Millions)		
+ Type of deposit	Total deposits ▲▼	New deposits ▲▼	Existing deposits ▲▼
+ Time			
2011Q3	983.4	313.1	670.3
2011Q4	1 032.4	323.6	708.8
2012Q1	876.1	248.6	627.5
2012Q2	1 061.1	357.7	703.4
2012Q3	894.7	303	591.7
2012Q4	823.9	263.4	560.6
2013Q1	672.2	176.3	495.9
2013Q2	664.6	275.7	388.9

Table showing codes instead of names

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Exporting Data

Once you have located data, you can export it in the following formats:

- Excel
- Text File (CSV)
- PC –axis – (Ready Made Files – not yet available)
- SDMX (XML)

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Viewing Metadata

Metadata can be viewed at all levels, from the dataset-level abstract down through to cell level footnotes. The presence of metadata is flagged by a small red **i**. Clicking on the red **i** will bring up the related metadata window in the right-hand area of the screen.

Clicking the button will open the metadata window in a new browser tab.

Opening metadata in a new tab

You can hide metadata from the main screen by clicking the 'HIDE INFORMATION' tab.

The screenshot shows the 'Information' section for the 'Labour Force' dataset. On the left, a vertical sidebar has a 'HIDE INFORMATION' tab. The main content area displays a tree view of metadata categories: Source, Data Characteristics, Sampling, Population & Scope, Concepts & Classifications, Other Aspects, and Database Specific. The 'Sampling' section contains a detailed description of the survey's design.

Footnotes and Dataset-Level Metadata

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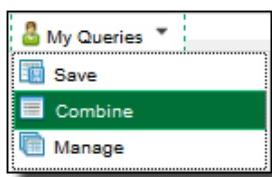
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Working with Queries

Creating a merged query

To create a merged query, first select the datasets required and then view the merged table. Select a dataset and then click on the **Combine** query function found under the 'My Queries' dropdown menu.



This dataset will then register at the top left hand side of the screen under 'Combine Queries'.



Select another dataset and again click on the **Combine** query function found under the 'My Queries' dropdown. This dataset will also register under the 'Combine Queries' section. You will find options to Edit, Remove or View.



Repeat this for each dataset that you want to include in the multi-dataset query. When all selections of data have been added, click **View** to see the combined data table.

Any common dimensions between the different datasets will be automatically combined. Other dimensions will automatically be displayed along the vertical axis, underneath section headings indicating their original dataset.

Customise Export

Frequency							
Time							
Adjustment Type	Data Item	Measure	Maturity	Industry	Currency	Sector	Dataset: International Investment Position 6
Original	Net International Investment Position	Position at beginning of period [3 million]	Total	Total	Australian Dollar Total	831 140	834 991
		Changes in position reflecting - transactions [3 million]				16 104	16 232
		Changes in position reflecting - prior changes [3 million]				-5 242	-12 375
		Changes in position reflecting - exchange rate changes [3 million]				-6 277	-51
		Changes in position reflecting - other adjustments [3 million]				-734	11 648
		Position at end of period [3 million]				834 991	-29 18
						838 067	-74
						848 698	316 90
Data Item	Measure	Adjustment Type	Dataset: Balance of Payments 1				
Current account	Current Prices (\$ Millions)	Original					
Goods and services credits							
Goods and services debits							
Goods and services							
Primary income 2							
Secondary income							
Capital and financial account							
Capital account							
Financial account							

Two datasets combined to form a Multi-Dataset Query

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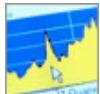
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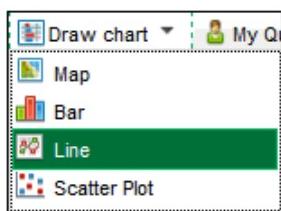


Drawing Charts

The 'Draw Chart' tool allows users to create maps, line charts, bar charts and scatter plot charts using the current data selection.

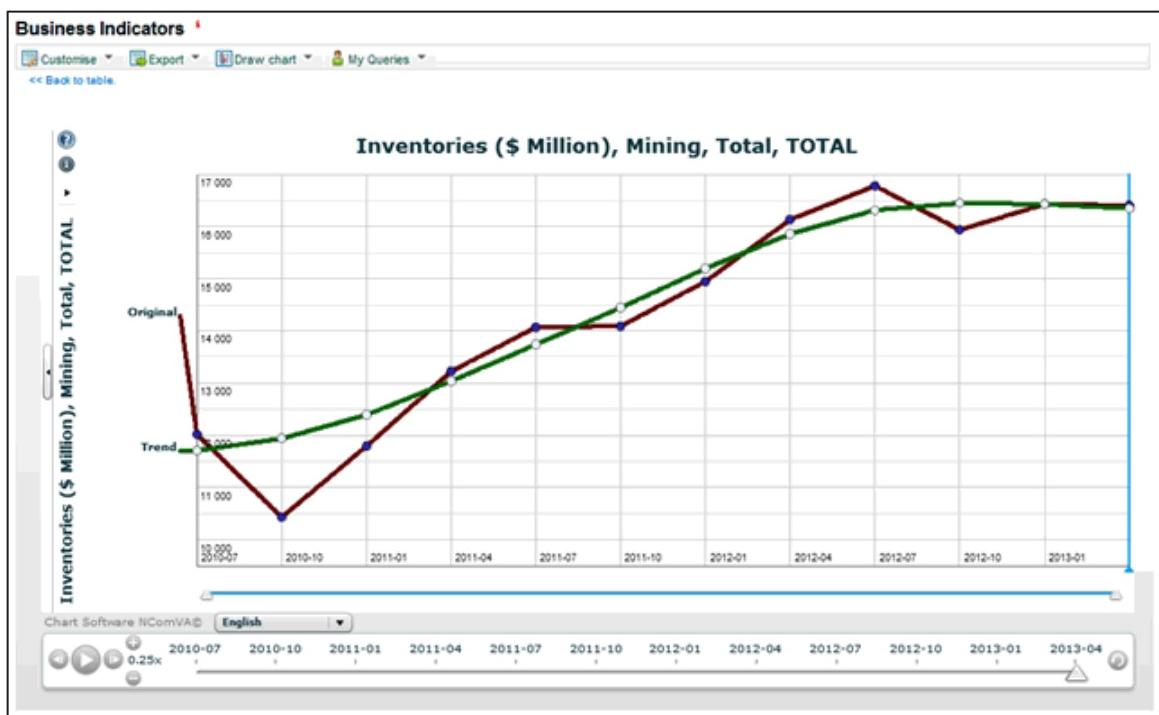
The charting function allows a maximum of 10,000 data points so limit the data selection in your table before creating a chart.

To create a chart click on the **Draw Chart** button, then choose **Map**, **Bar**, **Line** or **Scatter Plot**.



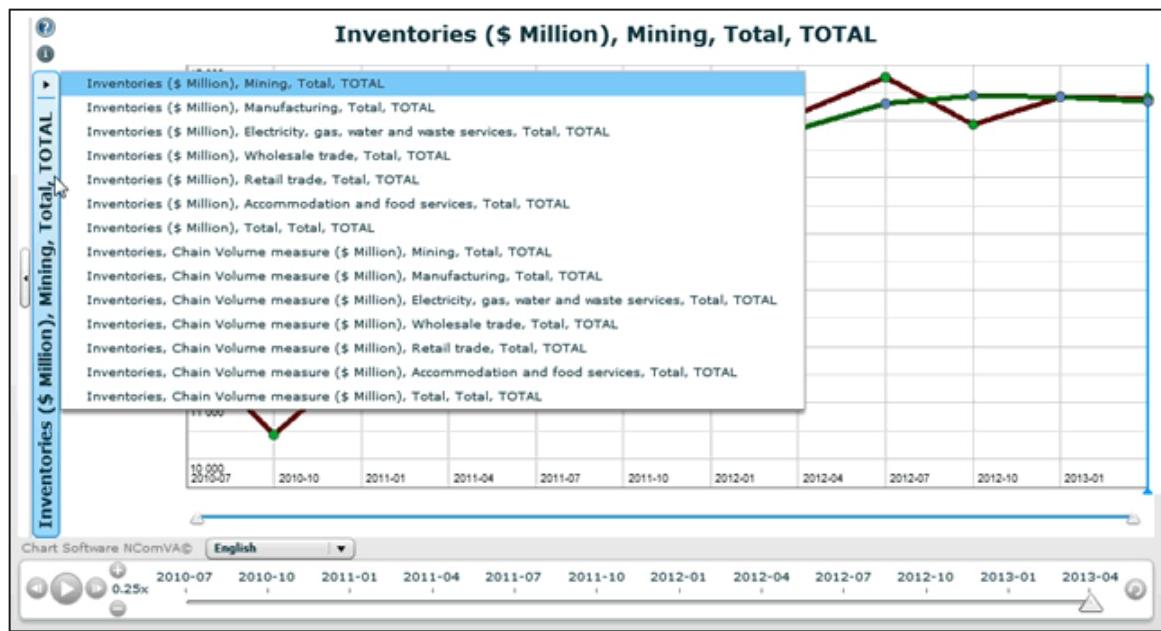
The Draw Chart drop down menu

The chart will be created dynamically based on your table. To make changes to your chart click the Customise button and adjust your dimension selections or layout.



A line chart created from the 'Business Indicators' table

Clicking on the name of the Y-axis will allow you to choose the dimension measured by the Y-axis.



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Printing Data from the Browser

It is not possible to print data directly from the browser. If you wish to print data from ABS.Stat it is recommended you first export your table as an excel file and then print from excel.

Information on exporting to excel can be found in the Exporting to Excel page of this user guide.

To print metadata from ABS.Stat, after clicking either the red **i** or blue **?** you require, click on the print button in the Information Panel and metadata will be printed.

The screenshot shows the 'Information' panel for the 'Consumer Price Index (CPI) 16th Series'. The 'Source' section is expanded, showing contact information and a link to 'Consumer Price Index, Concepts, Sources and Methods'. A large arrow points to the print icon in the top right corner of the panel.

Printing Metadata

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Providing Feedback

You can contact us by selecting the **Feedback** tab, found at the top right hand side of the screen.

Please note that in order to address your concerns in a timely manner, we have set up three separate request options.

- A content question will provide responses regarding the actual data content of ABS.Stat (e.g., Do you have data on shoe manufacturing?).
- Technical problem should be used for any technical questions or bugs that you encounter.
- Feedback can be used for sending comments, suggestions and observations about the system.

Sending feedback to the ABS.Stat Project Team

You can also email us directly at abs.stat@abs.gov.au.

The **Contact Us** tab in the top right hand side of the screen will take you to the Contact Us page of the ABS website.

The **User Assistance** tab in the top right hand side of the screen will open this guide in a new window of your browser.

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ABS.Stat Beta is a free interactive online tool that presents ABS aggregated data in a searchable, flexible and dynamic way. The web browser interface allows you to view, query, customise and download data to your own requirements.

This user guide will help you understand how to use the ABS.Stat Beta web browser, including how to find a dataset, view associated metadata, search for and select variables, customise tables, and export data.

This version includes information on the charting functionality and the availability of RESTful web services. It also reflects the change in the ABS.Stat colour scheme from a blue to green palette.

The ABS.Stat Beta Video Tutorials has also been updated.

The user guide will be updated from time to time as ABS adds further functionality to the system.

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